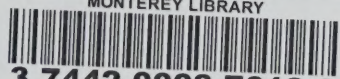


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MONTEREY NEWS



February, 1979

OUR TOWN

Frog Rock

For the last twenty odd years there has been on the steep bank alongside Beartown Mountain Road a large smooth promontory, painted green, with red, staring eyes, known as Frog Rock. Last fall, coincidentally with the road improvement work done on this road, it disappeared. In December the Selectmen received from a Mr. Charles Kelliher, who described himself as a regular vacationer in Monterey, and who expressed great distress that the Frog had not been replaced after the completion of road construction. Mr. Kelliher stated that several residents along Beartown Road were also "very upset" about the absence of the Frog, and wound up his letter by saying that he, as well as seven members of his hunting party, were "very dismayed." He urged that the Frog be replaced

by the side of the road or just off the road, so as not to be a hazard.

Meanwhile the original Frog is gone forever, no mere amphibian being a match for the relentless machines of the Monterey Highway Department. The Frog's beginnings, as a matter of fact, were as unexpected as its endings. According to local history, a family named Cummaro once lived in the house on the corner of Hupi Road and Beartown Road where the Stanley Zilka family now lives. Mr. Cummaro was an engineer who worked with a man named Cambern, President of the Phillips Screw Company. Mr. Cambern had a little factory up the road from the Cummaros' house, where experimental work was done on parts for aircraft. Nobody remembers much about Mrs. Cummaro, except that she was an attractive and energetic woman. One day, out of who knows what kind of inspiration Mrs. Cummaro walked down Beartown Road to a big smooth rock at the corner of Lucy Smith's property and painted it to look like a frog. Thenceforth Frog Rock became an unofficial landmark. The Cummaros moved away, and in recent years Bernie Kleban, who lives across the road, has touched it up periodically. Lucy Smith reports that during the first year she had her driver's license she crashed into Frog Rock on a slippery winter day. No paint was chipped off the Frog, but Lucy sustained a black eye and a badly damaged automobile. Since then, Lucy says, she had been wary of the Frog and had wondered, along with some of her friends, whether the rock might loosen with a spring thaw and tumble into the road. Despite Lucy's wariness, her two sons grew fond of the rock during their visits to their mother and have recently echoed Mr. Kelliher's sentiments regarding its replacement.

The Monterey Selectmen are willing to honor what seems to be the majority opinion and to come up with a reasonable facsimile of Frog Rock in the spring of this year. The Board has asked the Monterey News to publish a plea for volunteers (perhaps from one of the town's youth groups) to apply their talents toward the creation of a new Frog in late spring or summer. Any takers?

Inspection of Wood Stoves Required

According to a newly established state law, all new installations of wood stoves are required to be inspected by the Building Inspector, who will issue a permit. In Monterey, inspection is carried out by the Fire Chief, Ray Tryon. It is worth noting that in Monterey what is called a "prefabricated chimney" is no longer legal. A prefabricated chimney is one made of stove pipe, insulated or otherwise. Only masonry chimneys are deemed safe enough to withstand chimney fires. Anyone planning to install a wood-burning stove is advised to call Robert Ensign (528-4296) or Ray Tryon (528-2583) for an inspection.

The Monterey Store

On December 29 the Monterey General Store changed hands. Carsten Jenssen of South Egremont purchased it from Ira Weiss. Scott Jenssen, a native of Monterey for twenty years, and his fiancée, Mary Dohm, from Simsbury, Connecticut, are presently managing the store.

Since its purchase they have added several thousand dollars in new stock and increased the cheese and meat department by double. As of now they have overstuffed roast beef, corned beef and ham and cheese sandwiches. Later on they will extend the menu to turkey, pastrami, salami, tuna, egg salad and more.

We deliver to the elderly and shut-in people of Monterey. Newspapers will be reserved as supply allows.

Store hours are Monday to Saturday: 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Wednesday 7:30 a.m. to 1:30. We no longer close at midday on weekdays. Sundays 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



CATHOLIC CHURCH

Masses Schedule: Our Lady of the Valley, Sheffield, Saturday 5:30 p.m. Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Notes Morning worship each Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Kindergarten class Sundays 10:30 a.m.

Worship with Housatonic Church

The Monterey Church is participating in a project of the Berkshire Association to help the Housatonic Church while it is

passing through a difficult transition. Different Berkshire pastors have been "loaned" by their churches for one Sunday, while a lay minister conducts the worship at home. Monterey decided to carry the project one step further. On Sunday, February 18, we are going as an entire congregation to worship with the people of Housatonic. We will meet at the church. Be ready to go at 9:30 a.m. The worship is at 10:00 a.m.

Lenten Bible Study During the Lenten season this year we will engage in a Bible study series related to the Holy Spirit. Various references in the scriptures will be drawn upon to help illuminate this important aspect of Christian belief. The beginning session will be on Tuesday, February 27, at 7:30 p.m. at the parsonage. The study will continue through Lent, meeting at the same time each Tuesday evening. All in the community are invited to share in this Lenten program.

Installation of Officers

All the officers elected at the annual meeting will be installed at the morning worship on February 25. This will be a recognition and celebration of our working together in the cause of Christ. There will be a coffee hour following.

Offering for Lee Steeple

The United Church of Christ building in Lee has been designated as an historic Massachusetts building. It is, indeed, a beautiful structure which continues to remind us of our heritage. Since parts of the maintenance of the building are beyond the capacity of the Lee congregation, community help is being gratefully received. Our church plans to receive an offering to help on February 25. We will gladly convey all gifts to help our brothers and sisters in Lee.

PATHETIC FALLACY

Intrepidly defying
The radiant force of noon,
And even now denying
The end is sure and soon,

Clinging with a power
Too tenuous and faint
To last the shrinking hour,
Yet weeping with restraint,

The icicle, grown longer, longer,
The only hanging one,
Is waiting in the stronger
February sun.

Rosemary Farrar

THE MYTH OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY

I am ashamed. I am so very much ashamed that I would be embarrassed to show my face to a couple of unknown young persons. If I should meet them, I would wish to apologize and express my deep regrets to them.

I was involved in an event that revealed to me once again how deeply we humans are bound together "in one bundle," yet I was too blind and self-absorbed to see it at the time. It happened this way. I stopped for a few minutes at a shopping center. After making a few purchases I tried to start the car. The battery had gone dead. I had been told that it wouldn't last long. I was in a hurry, surveyed the situation, saw not many cars around, decided I must take care of myself. I considered myself lucky to be so conveniently located by a store, went in and bought a new battery. I came out lugging the battery back to my stalled car, planning exactly how I'd jump-start it and quickly be on my way. To my surprise two young people had pulled up at an angle toward my car, which I had left with uplifted hood. It faintly passed through my head that they were waiting to give me a jump-start. But I was preoccupied with "my plan" and glad I was able to work out things sufficient unto myself. I gave them little heed except to wave them on, indicating I had everything under control, so they drove away.

I checked battery pole positions, hooked up the jump cords, got in to start the car. Nothing. Then in a few seconds -- smoke. I jumped out, pulled off the cords and realized I had done a very stupid thing. I assumed the poles of the new battery, positioned exactly as the old one, were the same. They were not. Not in a thousand times would I have made that mistake jump-starting from another car.

Now what to do? The car had suffered damage. I had to abandon it, for the time being, in the parking lot. I went into the store and by good fortune, through the grace of a neighbor, was able to get a ride home.

That night, while trying to get to sleep and still contemplating my folly-ridden evening, it was as though my eyes came to focus, for the first time, on the young people who were waiting -- parked beside my car -- waiting to help me. In my blindness and insensitivity I hadn't really seen their eagerness and joy at the opportunity to help me. I half ignored them and half dismissed them, so intent was I on solving my own problems. They had a gift to give and I was too wrapped up in my own concerns to see clearly this wonderful human transaction waiting to take place.

Every time I remember this incident I am filled with shame. How could I have been so blind? What possessed me that I did not receive their offer with open arms, rejoicing at the generosity and helpfulness they wanted to bestow upon me? What demon in me made me act as though I must be self-sufficient in the face of their proffered kindness?

A bit more reflection makes me realize that in our culture we have placed so much emphasis on self-sufficiency that we are led into denying how profoundly all our lives are tied together with others. Economically we are all bound with powerful ties to hundreds and thousands of people, yet so often we go on acting as if each of us must be economically sufficient unto himself. It is sheer fiction when I get to thinking "I have made it myself" so far as my financial well-being is concerned. A veritable multitude has contributed in many different ways to helping me live on my economic level. Indeed, our society is becoming constructed so that we are more and more completely interdependent. Yet we go on trying to live by the fiction that we can be sufficient unto ourselves. It was this fiction that threw me off course several days ago.

My concern in writing this article is not simply to publicly berate myself for a glaring blind spot in my vision. I have a conviction that most of us have blind spots when it comes to recognizing the deeper implications of our humanity. We are linked together much more deeply than our "everyday vision" leads us to suspect. The suffering of my neighbor and the joy of my neighbor are genuine parts of my life, if only I don't try to isolate myself off in some corner, blindly pretending it is none of my business. Economically, politically, socially, religiously, we are bound together, even though one is rich and the other poor, one is Republican and the other Democrat, one is Jewish and the other Christian, and another agnostic.

Some years ago Barbara Ward, a British economist and political scientist, wrote of Spaceship Earth. She observed that it is becoming more and more evident that the earth is a spaceship. The air I breathe is the air we all breathe, my water supply is the water supply of us all. The resources we must guard if we are to survive are the resources of the "whole crew." We have treated many of these things as if they were for our private exploitation. Say I buy a piece of land for farming. Is it simply "my business" if I choose to deplete the soil? No. It is everybody's business. Misuse anywhere threatens the whole crew of this spaceship earth. We have been far too careless on this spaceship. Suppose a few industries, because they see the chance of making a fast buck, pay no attention to the ozone layer that holds in our atmosphere. That would be as insane as letting someone in a four-person spaceship start shooting holes in the walls of their tiny craft.

Albert Schweitzer coined a phrase. He spoke of "reverence for life." This is a phrase that needs much wider circulation in our day. I wish for myself that I may have a steadily increasing reverence for the life of all other persons around me -- and I want that to include those young people I too largely ignored and dismissed a few days ago.

Virgil V. Brallier, Minister
Monterey United Church of Christ

The Roadside Store: A Tradition in its Own Time



Have you visited the Roadside Store lately? If your answer to this question is "no," then you're not a part of the "in" crowd in Monterey. For the roadside Store is where people of all names, shapes and sizes gather to talk about local news, exchange jokes, and enjoy some of the best food this side of Boston!

The Roadside Store is run by Gould Farm and managed by one of the Farm's staff, Bretta Oellig. This reporter visited the store one day recently to get a "bird's eye view" of a typical day. The day officially begins at 8:00 a.m., when customers begin to arrive. Bretta runs the grill, cooking everything from pancakes to french toast to fried eggs,

served with home-made bread, while her cohort, Burt Jones, serves coffee, washes dishes, and keeps the counters clean. While some customers exchange local news, Burt and Bretta conscientiously serve them.

Breakfast lasts until about 11:00, and about 11:30 lunch starts. Dan Whitbeck, a regular customer, says to Burt after Burt has waited on a gas customer, "Say, Burt, it sure is hot out there, isn't it? (Actually it's 30° below 0°). Burt replies, "It sure is -- I need my beach towel and suntan lotion." Such informal chatter is not unlike the fun which is often had at the store.

The store has recently instituted tea-time on Friday afternoons. If, on Fridays after a week of hard work you are tired and hungry, stop in at the store at 4:00 for a cup of hot tea or coffee and a taste of home-baked pastry and dessert. Also, just recently we received two new round tables made by Virgil Stucker, Peter Zwetchkenbaum and David Mahan, all members of Gould Farm.

The Farm now sends some of its best workers down to work at the store. Many former workers at the store are now at Farrington House, the Farm's halfway house near Boston. They include such notables as Abby Bradley, Jon Shami, Russ Lance and Kathie Brobeck.

As our day at the store nears its close, we see Bretta serving some customers cabbage soup and coffee. This reporter asked her, "How do you like working at the store?" Bretta replied, radiating a smile, "Well, I think it's the best job on the Farm." And, after a day at the store, we couldn't agree more.

Burton Jones

ENVY

We say that Envy turns its sinners green;

But I, as one, would other colors choose:

Perhaps that sinking in the gut, unseen,

Suggests sick-curdled browns or jaundiced hues.

For some, it galls when wealth to some accrues,

Far worse, I scorn true worth. To my expense,

Note bitterly how gifts and strengths may fuse,

While knowing childish rancor makes poor sense,

I covet their loose-worn experience

And count my merits few when I compare

The ease with which they do; while I dispense

From lifting burdens light as down to bear.

But all God asks is that we be the best

In what we are, and disregard the rest.

Kathie Brobeck
Gould Farm



4-H

Photography - On February 17 the 4-H Camera Club held their semi-monthly meeting at the home of John Nichols in Great Barrington. Herbert Mueller explained different areas of photography at this meeting. Again, anyone interested in volunteering their help or photographic knowledge is urged to call Kevin Bradley at 528-0782.

Great Barrington Camera Club

The Camera Club met on February 13 at the V.F.W. Hall. The slide competition for the evening dealt with "Humor and Comedy." Also, the slides for the NECCC "Nature and Regular" competition were entered.

BOY SCOUTS

Cub Scouts - The Cub Scouts continue to work very hard on their Wolf Badge. They will be nearing the completion of this important badge very shortly.

GIRL SCOUTS

Brownies - This month the Brownies have begun work on the World of Well-Being, one of the six worlds of Girl Scouting. By the end of the year the Brownies must do twelve projects, a few in each World, to earn their Brownie B patch.

On January 11 they practiced using the telephone for emergencies. Each girl got a chance to use the phone to call on her very own "make believe" emergency. Later in the meeting, they made cards with emergency phone numbers to take home.

On January 18 they worked on nutrition and food groups. The girls used magazines to cut out pictures of different foods. At a later meeting they will use them to make nutrition charts.

For the next meeting the Brownies travelled to Fairview Hospital where Rita Clark gave the troop a most interesting tour of the facilities. They saw the emergency room, cardiac unit, nursery, respiratory therapy room, drug room, physical therapy room, X-ray and laboratory, just to name a few. They learned a lot and everyone there was especially friendly and helpful.

A tour of the Great Barrington Police Station was next on the agenda. Officer Nancy Gardella showed the girls around. They saw the teletype machine, the cells, and learned how the phone is used to call the police cruisers. They had a chance to try on hand cuffs and were allowed to hold her gun and bullets. Officer Beckwith let them look over his police cruiser, #1188, at the end of their visit. The tour was a great success. The girls learned that the police are there to protect their well-being and to serve all the people.

Juniors and Cadettes - The Juniors have been working on their Plain Badge. For this badge the girls create their own badge and do the activities in order to achieve it. They have chosen skiing as their Plain Badge. They have also been making plans to go roller-skating. On February 7 the Juniors went sleigh-riding in the new snow.

MONTEREY YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group held a winter sports night on February 4 that consisted of coasting and sledding and other general winter sports. On February 11 they held a swimming party at Oak 'n Spruce. As part of their social program the Youth Group has been working on being able to communicate better with people. This program will last through February and into March.

SKIING

The cross country skiing program at New Marlborough Central School was a great success. During the program the group went skiing at Butternut Basin and had cross country lessons at the area. The program ended on February 14, but hopefully, it will be continued next year also.

SKATING

Skating is now possible for residents of Monterey at Greene Park during the night or the day. The rink is plowed and maintained by the Town Highway Crew and can be used anytime. There is no charge. At night, to turn on the light, simply turn the switch on the light-post to the "ON" position.

SHEFFIELD YOUTH HOCKEY

Due to many cancelled games, the Youth Hockey has not been in action very much since early January. However, they have begun their games again in mid February.

Kevin Bradley
Youth Editor

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our deepest gratitude goes out to the following for their contributions in the past month: William Bohn, Mr/Mrs Thomas Bradley, Eleanor Brooks, Jan Buchar, Mr/Mrs Robert Carter, Margaret Cummings, Mary Edmonds, Marjorie Fuller, Hans Kessler, Mr/Mrs William Koivisto, Nancy Ann Maglione, Mr/Mrs Rick Mielke, Eugene Ormandy, Nina Tryon, Charles Wilkinson.

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